of the system of carrying nightsoil on one's head. He should first abolish it in his own department where this system is still in practice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is enought. Please sit down.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Constituency, Patna. Not a single Central University has been set up in Bihar so far. Patna University fulfils all the conditions for being declared a Central University and for the last 20 years, there has been a demand that if there is any institution which can be accorded the states of Central University, it is the Patna University but the Government has not taken any action in this regard so far.

Through you, I would like to urge upon the Governemnt that a Central University should be set up without further delay in Bihar which is the second most populated state after Uttar Pradesh. Besides, Patna University has on its rolls students not only from Bihar but also from the border areas of Bihar. I demand that necessary action should be taken by the Government to accord the status of Central University to Patna University so that the students from Bihar as well as the students from the neighbouring areas are benefited.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very vital issue. For a long time now, the rumour regarding the hike in price of Petroleum products has been in the air. I would like to make a demand that prices of Petroleum products should not be hiked at all. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is present in the House. Recently he has spoken about the possibility of hike in the prices of Petroleum products during an interview with a private T.V. channel which is, in a way, contempt of the House because these days Parliament is in session. At such a time the, issuance of a policy statement outside the House tentamounts to contempt of the House. This would encourage the tendency of black-marketing and hoarding of Petroleum products and as a result the prices of commodities of daily use would also flare up. The Government has hiked the prices of diesel, petrol and LPG only recently and further revision of the prices would put more burden on consumers, push up the inflation and exhaust the bearing capacity of the people.

There has been loss of revenue because of adulteration in diseal and petrol. The poor people in the village do not get kerosene at all. The Government was supposed to impose restrictions on the consumption of petrol but it has failed to do so. As the Government has not taken any strict measures and has also not been able to gather courage in this matter; it is conspiring to hike the prices of Petroleum products.

Recently, the Petroleum Minister has given an indication to this effect in the conference of Economic experts. The people of this country would never tolerate hike in prices of Petroleum products, if it is resorted to in order to cover up the inefficiency and weak economic policies of the Government. Hence, through you, I would like to request the Government not to increase the prices of Petroleum products as the common man is already overburdened because of inflation. He should be saved from bearing additional buden...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether there is any proposal to increase the prices of petroleum products ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak. Please allow him to speak.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House to a serious liquor tragedy occurred in my constituency on the eve of Deepavali. On that day, some State workers of my constituency fell ill after drinking the spurious liquor. Three workers died and more than 40 workers became serious after consuming liquor. They are very poor State workers. This liquor tragedy has shocked the entire State of Kerala.

The workers are still admitted in the hospital and their health has not been improving despite medical attention.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, since April 1996, when Shri A.K. Antony was the Chief Minister of Kerala, he has totally banned arrack. At that time, more than 10,000 arrack shops were closed. The police and excise officers were very much alerted and all the arrack shops were closed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please be brief. It is a State subject, but still I have allowed it.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : After the general elections, the LDF came into power, but they are not taking effective steps to ensure the implementation of the ban on arrack. So, the policy of banning arrack manufacturing in our State collapsed totally, and spurious arrack is being manufactured in the entire Kerala now. All the arrack is coming from other States and the police and excise officials are not taking any effective steps to check this. The Government of Kerala is not interested in continuing the ban on arrack. Under these circumstances, many more tragedies may occur in Kerala in future.

Therefore, the Government of India must intervene urgently to avoid the occurrence of liquor tragedies again and again. The Government of India should seek a detailed report from the Kerala Government on this

liquor tragedy. I also request the Government of India to give some financial assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the affected persons. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (Sri Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to raise the issue of millions of farmers. The farmers of Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab and other parts of country are not getting reasonable price for their cotton crops. The condition of lakhs of farmers queuing in the market has become pitiable. The price of cotton is Rs. 1100 per quintal. The per acre cotton yield is 4.95 quintal while Rs. 5000 are spent on fertilizers, seeds and pesticides on one acre-crop. It means that the farmers are selling cotton at throw away prices. The farmers sell their product at a very cheap rate in the market but once it is purchased by the traders and stored in the godowns, the price becomes just double, just as the wheat was sold by the farmers in April at the rate of Rs. 400 per quintal and now, it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 900 per quintal. It is nothing but exploitation of farmers and labourers.

Sir, our hon. Prime Minister get it advertised through big banners, radio and doordarshan that he is a farmer's son but the farmers are being exploited at present in such a way. One can well imagine through it, what will be happening in the remaining parts of the country. In the end, I earnestly request the Governmet to raise the cotton price immediately to the tune of Rs. 2500 per quintal and take steps to purchase it from the farmers otherwise the anger of the farmers may take a serious turn for which the Government will be held responsible.

Sir, it was published in yesterday's and day before yesterday's daily 'Punjab Kesri' as to what were the rates of cotton and wheat and how the farmers are being exploited.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begu Sarai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to South Karnapur Coal field of Bihar. South Karnapura coal field is located in Bihar in which there are three collieries, Argadda, Barkakana and Syao under Central coal field; South Karnapura coal field has 435 million metric tonnes of high grade i.e. A,B and C grade coal and 448 million metric tonnes of low grade coal. In lack on advance techniques of mining the coal during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, it suffered a loss of Rs. 135 crore and Rs. 122 crore respectively. 24000 workers are employed in this coal field. The coal fields of Bihar are thicksin and there is no technique in our country for thicksin mining. Therefore, some experts from other countries were called for thicksin mining but they also failed in their job.

Sir, the need of the hour is to develop this coal field and to bring the lossmaking coalfields out of red and to ensure that 24000 workers are not rendred jobless. Therefore an advertisement should be released on large scale. Previously, Bharat Coaking Coal Limited had to face the same problem. A new technology in the form of open cast mining has been developed there. I would like to urge upon the Government, specially the hon. Minister of coal to hold talks with the Ministry of Coal and trade union on the problem of South Karnapura coal field of Coal Industry and find out any solution.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the issue mentioned by Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari that the entire eastern Uttar Pradesh is reeling under serious shortage of D.A.P. chemical fertilizer at present. Due to blackmarketting prevalent in that area, there is unavailability of di-amonia phosphate in all the Government godowns of Uttar Pradesh. The sowing of Rabi is at its peak in the state. I, through you, request the Government to make immediate arrangements in this regard. The local authorities have told that due to shortage of rail-wagons, D.A.P. chemical fertilizer is not being obtained. I would also like to request the hon. Minister of Railways, present in the House, to instruct the Railway authorities in this regard. Keeping in view the peak season of rabi season's sowing, immediate arrangements should be made for availability of Railway wagons so that availability of Railway wagons so that availability of D.A.P. fertilizer can be ensured.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the leader of the House the hon. Minister of Railways is present in the House, I want to deliver my speech in Hindi, I want to say something on problem of Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But the speech should not be long.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I am speaking in Hindi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright, it should not be long in Hindi also.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways had called a meeting of the hon. Members hailing from Kerala in which he had given assurance to us but no effort has been made so far to fulfil those assurances. There are 17 Railway Zones in the Country. 6 new Zones have been set up. We had demanded one for Kerala and were optimistic that he would accept it but he overlooked Kerala. In this regard all the Members hailing from Kerala have given a memorandum to the hon. Minister of Railways. We have to go to Madras for every work related to railway. Previously he had given assurance to set up Chief Engineer's office at Kochin but it could not be implemented. A notification was also issued in this regard but that too was cancelled. All the programmes pertaining to Railway are being implemented in Kerala with a snail's speed. The fund is allocated in every